



# NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND



## New Options For Families: Supplemental Educational Services Pilot Programs

July 2006

*"No Child Left Behind has truly empowered parents with better information and more options, including free tutoring under the supplemental educational services provision of the law."*

-Secretary Margaret Spellings

### Raising Achievement: A New Path for *No Child Left Behind*.

- In her April 7th, 2005 address at Mt. Vernon, Secretary Margaret Spellings announced a new, common-sense approach to the *No Child Left Behind Act [NCLB]* that offers states and school districts flexibility in their implementation of the law, provided they are meeting its core principles and its primary goal of improving student achievement.
- **Four key principles** will guide the Department's approach: ensuring students are learning, making the school system accountable, ensuring information is accessible and options are available, and improving the quality of teachers.

### Giving Parents Real Options By Implementing Quality Supplemental Educational Service Programs.

- **Supplemental educational services [SES]**, which include free tutoring and after-school assistance, are an important component of *NCLB*, providing low-income parents with real options to improve their children's academic performance and hold schools accountable for performance. This extra help is offered to the neediest students in schools deemed "in need of improvement" for at least two straight years (a designation received after missing adequate yearly progress goals for three straight years). It is a vital element of school reform.
- SES is a new provision under *NCLB*, and we have learned valuable lessons in its first few years of implementation. Setting up a successful SES program requires **close coordination and cooperation** between a state, its school districts, SES providers, and parents.
- Unfortunately, there is evidence from across the country that the SES provision is **not being implemented to its full potential**. Too few eligible students are receiving SES. According to several studies, only about 10 to 20 percent of eligible students across the country participated during 2003-04.

### Under the Leadership of Secretary Spellings, the U.S. Department of Education Is Testing SES Pilot Programs During the 2005-06 and 2006-07 School Years.

- To improve the delivery and quality of SES to students, the Department is testing a series of **SES pilot programs** in a select number of school districts across the country.
- These pilot programs will fulfill **two key priorities**: ensuring that more eligible students are receiving SES, and providing more accurate and comprehensive information to the Department on SES programs' effectiveness in improving student academic achievement.
- The Department hopes to gain valuable knowledge about SES from these pilot programs—information that can be shared with states and districts to improve the quality and delivery of these services.

For more information about No Child Left Behind visit [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov) or call 1-800-USA-LEARN.

## SES Pilot Programs in Select Urban School Districts.

- The Department is working with the independent **Council of the Great City Schools** to enter into flexibility agreements with select urban school districts that are committed to providing SES to greater numbers of eligible children.
- The agreements serve to increase student participation in, and strengthen the quality of, SES programs in these districts.
- **Chicago Public Schools** and **Boston Public Schools** were the first urban districts to enter into a flexibility agreement with the Department; in the 2006-07 school year, **Anchorage School District** and **Memphis City Schools** will also join the pilot.
- Pilot districts will be eligible to serve as SES providers in exchange for expanding students' ability to access SES providers and collecting achievement data to determine SES program effectiveness. Specifically, these districts have agreed to provide:
  - Early notification to parents of their children's eligibility to participate in SES;
  - Extended enrollment periods so that parents can make the best choice for their child;
  - The use of district facilities by non-district providers for a reasonable fee; and
  - Academic data analyzed by an independent third party to evaluate the effectiveness of SES services.

## SES Pilot Programs to Offer SES to Schools in Year One of Improvement.

- In the 2005-06 school year, the Department also entered into a flexibility agreement with the state of **Virginia** that allowed four districts in the state to offer SES to schools in year one of improvement. For the 2005-06 school year, four Virginia districts participated: **Alexandria City, Henry County, Newport News, and Stafford County**. As a result, in those districts SES was offered to low-income students in schools identified as "in need of improvement" one year earlier. Virginia's four districts will continue to participate.
- For the 2006-07 school year, the Department has entered into similar flexibility agreements with the states of Alaska, Delaware, Indiana, and North Carolina.
  - In **Alaska**, three districts will participate: Anchorage School District, Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District, and Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District.
  - In **Delaware**, six districts will participate: Appoquinimink, Brandywine, Christina, Indian River, Marion T. Academy Charter School, and New Castle Vocational and Technical School District.
  - In **Indiana**, three districts will participate: Metropolitan School District of Decatur Township, Monroe County Community School Corporation, and Muncie Community Schools.
  - In **North Carolina**, seven districts will participate: Burke County, Cumberland County, Durham County, Guilford County, Northampton County, Pitt County, and Robeson County.
- As part of these flexibility agreements, the five states have committed to increasing the number of eligible students participating in SES, extending enrollment periods, expanding options for parents, and providing achievement data on students in the SES pilot districts.

Letters to school districts and states regarding SES flexibility agreements are at <http://www.ed.gov/policy/elsec/guid/stateletters/index.html#ses>.